

**Nevada Biodiversity Initiative
2004 Photo Contest
Common Questions:**

Must the images be from Nevada or can they be from anywhere in the world?

The content of images is restricted to Nevada. The other restriction is with regard to people as primary subject matter. Images with people as primary subject matter are not acceptable.

Can underwater images be sent?

Yes! Images of native fish in their habitat are encouraged.

What will be done with my image?

We are interested in developing a collection of photos that show Nevada's Biodiversity. Every image sent in will be cataloged and filed for reference and possible publication. We are not asking for exclusive rights to your image. You are welcome to submit these photos for use in other contests or publications. However, if you have copyrighted your image, please do not submit it. We can not guarantee the protection of your copyright.

Winners and honorable mentions will be posted on our website:

<http://nevada.fws.gov> and click the Photo Gallery button

I do not shoot 35mm prints, all of my pictures are in slide format, is it ok to send slides?

Yes. You may send your images in any form you like. If you chose to submit slides, please make sure they are duplicates. Duplicate slides protect you in case your entries are lost or damaged in the mail. We suggest you protect your slides and photos with padded shipping envelopes and stiff cardboard. We do not assume responsibility for lost or damaged pictures. **Mark each slide or picture with your name and address.**

Will my slide get a fair judgment since you prefer photos?

Yes. The judges are looking for the best images that portray Nevada. They don't care how the image was shot, just that it is good! If your best work is on slides, by all means send it in.

Should I send the negatives?

Please do not send negatives! Your images can not be easily judged in this form. Prints are acceptable in any reasonable size ((4x6, 10x12) and do not need to be mounted. If your image wins a prize, we may ask for the negative for publication. However, the negative will be returned.

Can photographs taken with a digital camera be submitted to the contest?

Yes, but we must have a hard copy for judging. If selected, we may ask for the picture electronically.

I shoot mostly black & white photography, is this acceptable for the contest?

Black and white images are welcome.

Do I have to fill out a separate entry form for each slide I send in?

No. One entry form and one \$10 entry fee is needed for as many photos as you wish to send. You may even send photos in at different times, as long as it is prior to the contest deadline. A single entry form and fee covers all of your photos. Just make sure the package is postmarked before the contest deadline.

Do you accept entries via e-mail?

No. We want a hard copy because if we print your photos for judging, our printer may not do your image justice.

I want to send my entries via FedEx or UPS, what is the address?

The address is NBI Photo Contest U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1340 Financial Blvd. #234, Reno, NV 89502. Phone is 775-861-6300.

Should I send my entry to you via FedEx or Express Mail?

No. It is not necessary to send your entries via an express service, such as FedEx or Express Mail. As long as your entry is postmarked on or before January 15, 2005 it's fine. We allow a couple of weeks for all the mail to reach us. We don't even start judging the slides until all contestants' entries are processed. You may, however, choose to use either registered or insured mail, to ensure your photos are delivered and can be tracked. We would suggest insured mail since it is more cost effective. It is important to note that no service is foolproof and there is always the possibility that your package could be damaged or lost.

How can I be sure you have received my entries?

There are several ways you can find out. The simplest is to pick up the phone and call 775-861- 6300. We will be happy to let you know whether we received your entry. Please allow about two weeks before calling so we can be sure it's entered in the computer. If there is a problem with your entry, such as damaged slides or missing entry form, we will contact you if we have your address or phone number.

A more direct way of finding out is to use the Postal Services 'Return Receipt' service. Or, if you would like to save some money, just enclose a self addressed stamped postcard with a note asking us to mail it back to you when we get your entry. We will be happy to mail it back to you.

Do I have to send in \$10 for each slide I submit?

No. One \$10 entry fee covers as many photos as you wish to send.

Will my photos be returned?

No. We retain the right to keep any photos submitted. Even if you don't win, your photo may provide a unique and useful image that can be used in future

publications. It will also help develop a library of images of Nevada's Biodiversity. You retain ownership of your photo and can sell it to anyone else.

How will I be notified if I am a winner?

By mail. Just prior to the final round of judging, we will contact all of the contestants who have been selected as finalists by letter. The letter will indicate that you are a finalist and ask for you to forward the original slide or negative for the final round of judging. Once the final round is complete, you will be notified by mail that you are a winner or that you did not win.

Do you accept Digital files?

Yes, you may submit prints made from a digital image. Judging is based on viewing prints or slides, so actual prints are necessary.

Can you crop a photo to enhance a photo?

You are more than welcome to provide an image that has been cropped. Your submission can be in slide or print format. For the most part, judging is based on the images as provided. Sometimes, judges will take into account a contending image for which cropping to eliminate dead space or unwanted fringe elements would enhance the composition. Yet, you should not expect the judges consider this option. It is always best to present your work in the best possible condition.

Is this contest open to amateur and professional photographers?

Yes, there are no restrictions as to who can enter except for employees of NBI and the judges and their immediate family. They are not eligible to compete in this contest.

Can I submit copyrighted images?

No. If you have already copyrighted the entry, we can not guarantee its protection. The federal government does not copyright material used in its publications, so we discourage copyrighted photos.

Is one type of image or picture composition preferred over others?

Any image or format of image is acceptable. The only true limitation is that people can not be the primary subject matter. As long as the image falls into the category of landscapes, species or plants, we have no problem with it. Images with people and man-made elements, such as buildings, roads, bridges, etc. are acceptable and often selected. Images from all seasons of the year are needed. Images of rare or endangered species are encouraged. As far as media, photos are preferred, but slides are accepted as well.

How much is the prize money?

First place in each category wins \$50, while 2nd place wins \$25.

If I submit several photos, can several photos each receive cash prizes?

It is possible for someone to win more than one prize in this contest. In 2001, Carol McKim took first place in all three categories, winning \$150.

